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Rally for revival



LEADING IN WORSHIP — The adult choir of Brandon Church, Brandon, directed by David Prevost, leads in worship during the Monday evening session of the State Evangelism Conference. "David and the choir aided to everything we wanted to do," said Don Lum, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Conference encourages evangelism resurgence statewide

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Participants in the 2012 State Evangelism Conference, held Jan. 29 – 30 at Brandon Church, Brandon, experienced something special. From inspiring and exciting musical worship to messages from some of Southern Baptist's statesmen, attendees left encouraged, enlightened, and enthused.

According to Don Lum, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, several factors played into making the event such a success. "For one, the environment created by the Brandon Church family, from the pastor and staff on down, made it happen. Everyone had a role. Church members saw it as an opportunity to minister to others."

The conference began Sunday night with praise and

worship led by Marc Ivey, of Lynchburg, Va., and a message from Kevin Hamm, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, Ala.

Monday morning began with worship led by Ivey and another message from Hamm. "I still believe in a

God who can bring revival," said Hamm, "and it begins with you and me." Using Revelation 2:1-5 as his text, Hamm said, "We can think we're right and doctrinally cor-

rect and still not have passion. We have a form of godliness but our hearts are far from God. We're just going through the motions."

After another season of praise and worship from Ivey, Sammy Gilbreath, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention,

**See Evangelism on
page two**

"I still believe in a God who can bring revival. And it begins with you and me. We can think we're right and doctrinally correct and still not have passion. We have a form of godliness but our hearts are far from God. We're just going through the motions."

— Kevin Hamm
pastor
First Church, Gardendale, Ala.



SHARING THE WORD — Kevin Hamm, pastor, First Church, Gardendale, Ala., makes a point during his Monday morning message at the State Evangelism Conference at Brandon Church, Brandon. (Photo by Tony Martin)



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Participated in abortion lately? You will.

Southern Baptists and Catholics may have their theological and political differences, but there's at least one issue on which they agree — the federal government should not be ordering them to go against their long-held beliefs on abortion and, for Catholics, birth control.

Contrary to previous assurances, the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama has mandated that all health insurance companies must provide contraceptives free of charge as a part of any individual or group policy they write. The government order includes birth control drugs and internal mechanical devices (IUDs, for example) that prevent a fertilized human egg from being able to attach to the wall of the uterus, in effect causing a living and developing human to be aborted.

The government order also includes a dangerous class of drugs perversely named "emergency contraception," which do their deadly work after a living and developing human has attached to the uterus, forcing the baby to be expelled from the mother's body — again, a classic definition of an abortion.

In addition, the full effect on a woman's health from the emergency contraception drugs — harsh enough to kill a baby in development — are not clear.

The Obama administration has also announced that there will be no exceptions for religious entities, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, but the government rule makers did deign to allow religious entities a little extra time to get accustomed to the idea of violating their long-held beliefs and values.

"This encroachment on religious freedom is blatant and outrageous and should be taken seriously by those of us

who are part of the body of believers, as well as by others who respect and regard this nation's history and constitutional foundation," said O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources in Dallas, the benefits board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

GuideStone has more than 200,000 participants worldwide who serve in about 36,000 churches, missions organizations, schools, hospitals, and other ministries, according to information provided by the organization. In addition to health and other insurance coverage, GuideStone also offers retirement, investment management, property and casualty coverage, and other services.

GuideStone has publicly announced its opposition to the so-called Obamacare universal health insurance coverage that contains this ominous mandate, and also joined a coalition of other church benefit plans to seek legislative and regulatory relief from various aspects of Obamacare that could threaten the ability of church health plans to serve their participants.

"One area of focus for many months has been the need for a conscience clause so that the convictions so important to us as believers are not disregarded or overrun in the name of healthcare reform," Hawkins said. "GuideStone continues to be active in addressing issues involving

sanctity of life, and also is adamant about other issues of vital interest to the evangelical community that could conceivably impact health plans in future years.

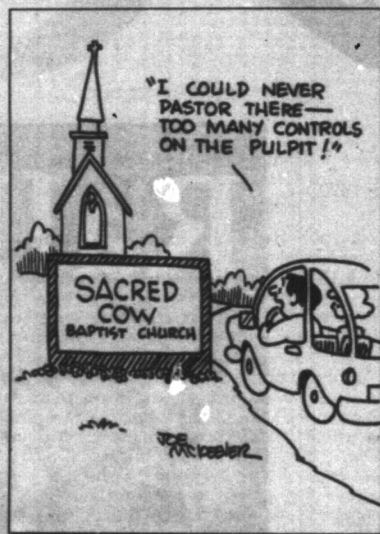
"For example, GuideStone could never concede to extend coverage to same sex spouses or cover questionable stem cell treatments."

The Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville has announced its opposition to the government order. Roman Catholic bishops have also been vocal, going so far as to say they will not obey the government order.

If government at any level can order churches and church-affiliated entities to provide free of charge the means to destroy a human life, where will such government orders stop? The mind reels.

This travesty of government overstepping its constitutional limits must be resisted. U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has introduced a bill to protect religious entities from this government order but its passage is far from assured, given the low stature of the people currently serving in our federal legislative bodies.

Christians have already given up too much ground. We are already far down the proverbial slippery slope. Now is a good time to take a stand.



Evangelism, cont. from page one

spoke. Gilbreath spoke on how so many churches get "used to the dark." He continued by stating, "You lose your burden [for the lost]. We can lose it in Sunday School — it can become more about teaching historical facts than saving grace. You can lose it with deacons — they become more interested in being administrative watchdogs than suffering servants." Gilbreath went on to say that we can lose our urgency, we can lose our dreams, and we can lose our desires.

After a break for lunch, the final four speakers structured their messages around the theme of the conference, "A Life, A Cross, A Tomb, a Living Lord." Bill Stafford from Chattanooga, Tenn., spoke on A Life. "People are trying to find any kind of religion that doesn't call for any sacrifice." Speaking from 2 Peter 1 about "real Christianity," Stafford said, "Salvation is just the beginning. He spends the rest of the time knocking me out of me. God saved us not

because He needs us but because we need Him ... if you go to church and haven't repented lately, you aren't walking with God."

Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., spoke on A Cross. His message concerning "covering the cross" stated that we cover the cross when we reject God's examination; when we ignore God's propitiation; when we ignore the matter of imputation; and when we disrespect God's renunciation. "Jesus paid it all," Hill said. "We might not do much for Jesus when we don't understand what He has done for us. You can be just like Jesus but it won't bring you righteousness. The best of our righteousness is like filthy rags."

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke on A Tomb. Using Matthew 28 as his text, Futral said, "The tomb is as vital as any other part of the Easter story. These are three days out of about

a thousand days of Jesus' ministry. The tomb is where many of us live, wondering if God Almighty can do anything in our lives now. People come to our churches wondering the same thing."

After dinner, Mickey Dalrymple, retired pastor from Columbus and currently living in Brandon, spoke on A Living Lord.

Drawing from Revelation 1:9 and following, Dalrymple's message dealt with the encounter with Jesus, the exaltation of Jesus, and the encouragement from Jesus. "How should we spend the

rest of our lives?" Dalrymple asked. "We should live our lives anticipating we are going to encounter the living Lord."

"The tomb is where many of us live, wondering if God Almighty can do anything in our lives now. People come to our churches wondering the same thing."

— Jim Futral
executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

said Lum. "These are men we've gained from for so many years. I sit back and thank God that He showed up, just as He did during the planning of the conference. God just met us."

Komen leaves door open for grants

Pro-life supporters disappointed by organization's revision of position

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Susan G. Komen for the Cure, one of the nation's leading charities battling breast cancer, revised a policy Feb. 3 that it had recently used to stop funding Planned Parenthood, leaving the impression it was open to future grants to the country's number one abortion provider.

The statement issued by Komen did not guarantee Planned Parenthood affiliates would continue to receive funds, only that they would remain eligible for such grants.

Komen's action after three days of a deluge of Planned Parenthood-fueled criticism was received by many pro-life advocates as a distressing setback, following so closely on the Jan. 31 report that the organization would no longer give money to one of the abortion movement's most prominent crusaders.

Planned Parenthood was instrumental in defeating Mississippi's Initiative 26 on the ballot of last November's state elections. Initiative 26 would have defined personhood as beginning at the moment of fertilization. Although Planned Parenthood does not have an abortion facility in the state, the organization paired with the American Civil Liberties Union to lobby against the measure.

One thing seemed certain after days of widespread news coverage of Komen's original action and the reaction: many more pro-lifers now know the breast cancer

foundation has given to Planned Parenthood and may continue to do so. As a result, pro-life advocates' donations to Komen and participation in its popular five-kilometer fundraising runs/walks that draw more than 1.6 million participants each year likely will decline.

Southern Baptist leaders who had applauded Komen's defunding of Planned Parenthood expressed their disappointment at the latest development.

"I am extremely disappointed that the Susan G. Komen Foundation would cave to the political pressure of the radical pro-choice movement," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

"It shows that underneath it all they share the culture of death mentality of the pro-choice movement. Pro-life Americans, now the majority in the country, will have to take that fact into account as they choose how to allocate their charitable contributions."

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, a Southern Baptist entity also headquartered in Nashville, had said Feb. 1 that LifeWay might reconsider its relationship with Komen in light of the charity's defunding of Planned Parenthood.

In December, LifeWay pulled from Walmart and other stores copies of a special pink-

covered Bible that partially benefited the cancer charity, after learning of its connection with Planned Parenthood.

"I am deeply disappointed with today's announcement from Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation if it means a reversal of Komen's decision to stop funding Planned Parenthood," Rainer said in a Feb. 3 written statement Friday.

"I renew my strong encouragement of Komen's leadership to end that relationship permanently, and restate LifeWay's commitment to not be involved, even indirectly, with Planned Parenthood."

Komen's latest announcement, which came from its board of directors and Chief Executive Officer Nancy Brinker, said the charity was "distressed at the presumption that the changes made to our funding criteria were done for political reasons or to specifically penalize Planned Parenthood. They were not."

Komen initially decided to abstain from future funding of Planned Parenthood affiliates because of its new policy that bans grants to organizations under government investigation, a Komen spokeswoman had said in a Jan. 31 report by the Associated Press.

In its Feb. 3 statement, Komen said it would amend the criteria "to make clear that disqualifying investigations must be criminal and conclusive in nature and not political."

"We will continue to fund existing grants, including those of Planned Parenthood, and preserve their eligibility to apply for future grants, while

maintaining the ability of our affiliates to make funding decisions that meet the needs of their communities," according to the Komen statement.

Komen also apologized to the public for "recent decisions that cast doubt upon our commitment to our mission of saving women's lives."

A Komen board member told The Washington Post the new statement does not mean Planned Parenthood definitely will receive money in the future.

Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), portrayed Komen's announcement as a return to the previous relationship.

"In recent weeks, the treasured relationship between the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation and Planned

Parenthood has been challenged, and we are now heartened that we can continue to work in partnership toward our shared commitment to breast health for the most underserved women," Richards said in a written release.

"We are enormously grateful that the Komen Foundation has clarified its grantmaking criteria, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Komen partners, leaders and volunteers."

Komen affiliates gave about \$680,000 to PPFA centers last year, AP reported Jan. 31. An analysis last year by the pro-life American Life League found that 18 of Komen's approximately 120 affiliates had given PPFA centers grants totaling nearly \$630,000 in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

"It shows that underneath it all they share the culture of death mentality of the pro-choice movement. Pro-life Americans, now the majority in the country, will have to take that fact into account as they choose how to allocate their charitable contributions."

— Richard Land
president
Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission of the
Southern Baptist Convention

Amendments faring well

ST. PAUL, Minn. (BP) — A majority of North Carolina voters and a plurality of Minnesota voters favor amending their state constitutions to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, according to two new polls previewing upcoming ballot initiatives. If both amendments pass, the states would become the 30th and 31st ones to define marriage in the traditional sense within a constitution. North Carolinians will have their say during a May 8 primary. The poll by Public Policy Polling shows that 56% of registered voters favor the amendment, while 34% are opposed. In Minnesota, a poll by Public Policy Poll (PPP) shows that state's proposed amendment ahead, 48%-44%. That amendment will be on the November ballot. The PPP polls often are the most accurate ones when gauging voter sentiment on marriage amendments for two primary reasons. First, PPP polls are automated, which allows participants not to feel pressured to give an answer that in many states is not politically correct. Second, PPP polls use wording that resembles the actual ballot language. PPP's poll was the only one that correctly predicted in 2009 that Maine voters would repeal a same-sex marriage law. Traditional groups warn that legalizing same sex marriage will harm religious freedom and they point to a series of recent legal cases, including ones in which Catholic adoption agencies in Massachusetts and Illinois chose to stop doing business with the state instead of being forced to place children in same-sex homes. Massachusetts has legalized same sex marriage. Illinois has civil unions. Traditionalists also warn that redefining marriage could impact what is taught in public schools and could affect the tax exempt status of religious organizations.

Looking back

10 years ago

Trustees of Mississippi College in Clinton choose Lee G. Royce, president of Anderson College in Anderson, S.C., to become the nineteenth president in the 175-year history of the school.

20 years ago

Southeastern Seminary president Lewis A. Drummond announces his retirement following a four-hour, closed meeting of the seminary trustees executive committee on the seminary's Wake Forest, N.C. campus.

50 years ago

The churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention baptized 16,575 persons into their membership during 1961, an increase of 287 over the previous year.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

VOL. 136

No. 6



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLE DRILL BLESSINGS

All across Mississippi there are wonderful men and women who give of their time, energy, and genuine love to help children as they prepare to participate in Bible Drills. If you are one of those folks or the parent of one of those children participating, or a grandparent who helps, or just a friend who encourages, thank you for all that you do to help our children at a foundational level learn the Word of God. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps. 119:11).

When I was growing up I participated in Bible Drill. Only back in those days, in the dark ages, we did not call it Bible Drill but Sword Drill. When we would begin the process they would say, "Attention — draw swords." All of that was said because the Bible is a sword. But these days we had to get away from all of that kind of military talk and still do the same wonderful thing. As I look back at those days when I was learning the books of the Bible, discovering where Scriptures were found, memorizing verses, and developing skills that would help me to find book, chapter, and verse quickly, I had no idea of the significance that would have in my life for all of my days.

Now to be honest with you and in the spirit of full disclosure, there were times when I was not a saint of God hiding the Word of God in my heart. In fact, I look back and at the time or even now, I think that it seemed more like the Word of God was being pounded into my thick skull and the people who were in charge of the process including my mom were more akin to strict wardens at a penal institution than Bible teachers. I hope you understand that it is not that they were bad but they were dealing

with some bad little boys — me being in the midst of them. Still, they soldiered on and saw to it that we were able to find New Testament and Old Testament verses. They helped us to know where major sections of the Bible were located, where the stories of Scripture could be found, and what many of the things that Jesus said and did meant and strapped them to our hearts.

I am so thankful that this same glorious process that is so difficult continues in our churches in Mississippi. Would you believe that last year over 3,200 of our children and teenagers participated in Bible Drills? Three hundred and forty of our churches had a program for children to be involved in Bible Drill and 364 churches had a program for their young people. As a result of the faithfulness of men and women across our state and the encouragement of pastors and youth workers, Mississippi leads the nation in this good work. There are two things that I want to express to you.

One is to say, "Thank you to all of you who are doing such a great job." Secondly I want to encourage some-

one who may have opportunity to help or begin a work in your church to do so. Neither you as a leader or your children who will be blessed should be left out. To help you get started, simply call or contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 284. Why is this so important? Here are three huge quick reasons.

(1) **The Word knows us.** God's Word looks beyond the exterior and into our hearts, thoughts, and motives. Every one of us needs to take advantage of those encounters with God. Providing

that in the early years, the formative days of a young person is vitally important.

(2) **The Word shows us.** The Word of God does not just point out the things in our lives that may be going wrong, but God points us in the direction of right. He points us to the cross where we can find forgiveness and hope. He points us to purpose in life and to the very reason that He made us.

(3) **The Word grows us.** Once you walk into the wonder of the Word of God you begin a journey that is infinite. It can last every day and in every way of an entire lifetime. Then it opens up the world that never ends.

As you participate in Bible Drill in your church, your association, and in the state you are participating in helping young people be involved in things that literally are eternal. Thank you and may God bless you as you help in this experience.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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RLV EM E TU RLV DOB-
DROB R DNRSB MUO
KUH, E QENN SUYB
RTREL, RLV OBSBEFB
KUH HLPY YKXBNM;
PCRP QCBQB E RY,
PCBOB KB YRK GB
RNXU.
AUCL MUHOPBBL:
PCOBB

Clue: T = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout a puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Ten: Fifteen



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

MS POSITIONS

FBC FLORA IS SEEKING A P/T CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please send resumes to P. O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071 or e-mail to jcole@fbcflora.org.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS. IS SEEKING A P/T MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, P. O. Box 368, Wesson, MS. 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

PASTOR: VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MATHISTON, MS IS SEEKING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Mail to: Victory Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 12, Mathiston, MS 39752.

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH IN RANKIN COUNTY IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY. Email any questions or resume to kspungee@bellsouth.net or mail to CLBC Youth Ministry, 1353 County Line Rd., Mendenhall, Ms. 39114. Compensation pkg., based on experience and/or ability is negotiable and could also include housing.

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601 Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

THE NEWTON SCOTT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME AREA MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 719, Decatur, MS, 39327, Attention: AMD Search Committee.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC WORSHIP LEADER. Contact Dr. Jeff Elliott at revjelliott@hotmail.com or 662-233-2401.

GALILEE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GLOSTER, MS. IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Please send resume's to Galilee First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 118, Gloster, Ms., 39638. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 9, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

LEGAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

February 20, 2012

Place: X-Tended Missions Network
office, Hernando

Time: 7 p.m.

Purpose: *Provide guidance
on legal issues churches face*

Contact Alan Woodward,

Pastor Leadership

Development Department

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www.facebook.com/event.php.eig=168452363225348. DVDs for promotion
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Saturday, March 3

8 a.m. — noon

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For more information:

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neshobabaptist@yahoo.com

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CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS

FESTIVAL

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For more information call Glenn Shows at
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Garaywa Mother/Daughter Overnight 2012

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For more info: Lee at 662-494-4213
or dgordon31@bellsouth.net

• Rally 8

Tuesday, March 13, at FBC, Columbia
For more info: 601-798-4886

• Rally 9

Thursday, March 22, at FBC, Prichard
For more info: 601-798-4886

• Rally 2

Monday, March 26, at West Jackson Street, Tupelo
For more info: Jim at 662-256-8778
or monroe41@bellsouth.net

• Rally 5

Tuesday, March 27, at Crossgates B.C., Brandon
For more info: BJ at 601-825-2562
or bjeague@crossgates.org

• Rally 7

Thursday, April 19, at FBC, Crystal Springs
For more info: Talmadge at 601-649-6596
or tamandmalliamsmith@yahoo.com

• Rally 3

Tuesday, April 17, at FBC, Hattiesburg
For more info: Barry at 662-224-6314
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Pray this day for...

Feb. 10 - 23, 2012

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

Pray for a team of 10 from **William Carey University BSU** serving in India, Feb. 10-19.

Pray for a team of five from **Calvary BC, Macon**, ministering through construction in Honduras, Feb. 11-19.

Pray for: **Don* and Valery Hulse***, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of two from **FBC, Picayune**, serving in South Asia, Feb. 13-29.

Pray for: **Tony* and Denita* Inmon**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Uruguay through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd* and Sharon* Johnston**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard and Susan* Jones**, IMB missionaries ministering to Asian and European Peoples in Canada through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John* and Melinda* Kyzar**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through personalization, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry* and Linda Lee**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy* and Rebecca* Lightsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of four from **Longview Point BC, Hernando**, providing pastor training in India, Feb. 20 - March 1.

Pray for: **Asbury and Jeannie* Martin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Argentina through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert* and Janice Mooney**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen* and Svetlana* Parish**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

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Parents: Matt & Shea
Last Frontier

Mr. Micah Milam - 4/2/96
Parents: John & Dana
European Peoples

Mr. Noah Carpenter
4/5/04
Parents: James & Tracy
Restricted

Mr. Mason N. - 4/17/91
Parents: Jeffrey & Judy
Restricted

Mr. Ethan Milam - 4/17/01
Parents: John & Dana
European Peoples

Miss Sarah N. - 4/21/94
Parents: Jeffrey & Judy
Restricted

Miss Elisabeth Savannah Johnson - 4/25/07
Parents: Lew & Brandi
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Eden S. - 4/26/05
S. & M.
Last Frontier

Miss Lindsey Williams
4/27/01
Parents: Matt & Shea
Last Frontier

Mr. Cale Little
4/28/91
Parents: Bob & Amy
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Bethani Thomas
4/28/93
Parents: Jeff & Karen Thomas
South America

Mr. Christopher Carlton
4/29/93
Parents: David & Pamela
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

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► Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. The Sistrunks

1. Levon and Helen Sistrunk, Philadelphia, were recognized by the Neshoba County Association as volunteers of the year Oct. 4, 2011 at North Calvary Church. Shown are the Sistrunks.

2. 38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, is hosting the Florida Boys in concert Feb. 25, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

3. The GAs of Pineview Church, Laurel, made Christmas stockings for the local domestic abuse

family shelter. Shown are the participants.

4. The WMU of Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, sent over 100 lbs. of dried rice and beans, and 25 hand knitted hats, to a Navaho Indian reservation in New Mexico. Shown are the participants.

5. A group of 17 men from Antioch Church, Branch Church, Cross Roads Church, and Leesburg Church went to Mexico Dec. 27-31 to minister to and build a school for the people of Reynosa. Shown are the participants.

6. Pastor Kevin Shearer, 38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, will have a book signing for his book, *Grace Works*, on Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.

7. The youth of Neshoba Church, Union, are preparing to drill a fresh water well in Africa for a Southern Baptist missionary working through Baptist Global Response. The project started in October. The youth have raised \$1642 toward a goal of \$2000. The youth got sponsors and one student, Andrew Hanna, ran 20 miles in 4 hours and 30 minutes working toward the goal. Shown are the youth.

8. Toxish Church, Pontotoc County, awarded Cooper Thompson a plaque in recognition of 47 years of service teaching Sunday School Sept. 4, 2011. Shown are Thompson and pastor Ricky Collums.

9. Harmontown Church, Como, will host The Miracles, a singing group from The Baddour Center in Senatobia, on Feb. 12, 11 a.m.

10. New Hope Church, Walnut Grove, ordained Michael Harper as their new pastor Jan. 15. Visiting ministers included, from left, John Sharp, Joe Able, Harper, Shane McGivney, and Dave Dowdy. The congregation gave Harper a Bible and fellowship meal.

11. Mt. Pleasant Church, Gloster, will dedicate its new fellowship hall on Feb. 12, at 11 a.m., fol-

lowed by dinner on the ground.

12. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will host a community singing on Feb. 18, at 6 p.m., featuring *Forgiven By Grace*.

13. Crystal Ridge Church, Louisville, licensed Douglas Sullivan to the ministry. Shown are Sullivan and pastor Charles Rook.



7. Neshoba Church, Union



8. Thompson and Collums



10. Harper ordination



13. Sullivan and Rook



3. Pineview Church, Laurel



4. Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven



5. Mexico mission trip

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Jerry Rankin, former president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, will teach REL 310 Principles and Practice of Missions, at William Carey University during the Spring Trimester. The Tuesday evening credit class, which begins February 21 and ends May 1, will meet in Lawrence Hall, Room 101 from 6-9:45 p.m. Church leaders and members of any denomination will be allowed to take the course on a non-credit basis for a \$50 fee with the approval of their pastor. A maximum of 20 slots are available at this rate. The textbooks Empowering Kingdom Growth: To the Ends of the Earth, Churches fulfilling the Great Commission, and Paradigms in Conflict: 10 Key Questions in Christian Missions Today will be used in the class. Rankin will also lead an "Impact your World" non-credit interactive study course at WCU for pastors, church personnel, and laity sponsored by WCU's department of church relations and Baptist Student Union, which will meet on Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Kresge Room, February 23 - April 25. The course is \$35, or \$25 each if three or more persons register together. It is a non-credit course. For more information about the Principles and Practice

of Missions class, call (601) 318-6115. Further information about the Impact your World course may be obtained by contacting Pam Shearer at (601) 318-6107 or pshearer@wmcarey.edu.

2. Taylor Townsend won the 2012 Miss Mississippi College pageant recently. A freshman from Flowood, Townsend was the top vote getter among five contestants during the competition at Swor Auditorium. A biology major with plans to become a pediatrician, the Jackson Prep graduate is the daughter of Bill and Cindy Townsend. Her father is vice president for advancement at Mississippi College. Her mother is a Jackson Prep educator and a former Miss MC. Townsend will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the Student Government Association and Office of Student Activities. Her sponsor was the Swar.nanoa Social Tribe. Her pageant platform dealt with the critical worldwide issue of human trafficking.

3. William Carey University student Andrew Harper, a senior from Seminary, will serve as Carey's Baptist Student Union (BSU) president for the 2011 - 2012 school year, as well as statewide president of the Mississippi BSU. He is a mass communication major, and works part-time



1. Rankin

as a freelance photographer. Upon graduation, he will attend seminary and become a church planter and missionary.

4. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Carey, a group from William Carey University will go on a mission trip to Serampore, India, where Carey lived, ministered, and founded Serampore College. Eleven students, two faculty members and one alumnae will stay in William Carey's home there February 10-19, and participate in a number of events hosted by Serampore College. Shown, from left, are Scott Hummel, vice president for advancement and church relations; Jillian Moore, Petal freshman; Abbie Sanguinetti,



2. Townsend



3. Harper



4. Carey mission trip participants

Hattiesburg freshman; William Hutchinson, Petal freshman; Josh Weaver, Lufkin, Texas, senior; Camille Weaver, Terry, senior; Bailee Hickman, Petal freshman; Luci

Hickman, Petal junior; Alyssa Bond, Perkinson sophomore; Jay Holifield, Pascagoula senior; Patrick Goode, Florence senior; and Jonathan Brook, assistant professor of history.

STAFF CHANGES

1. Poplar Springs Church, Newton, has called James L. Spencer as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Kathryn.



1. The Spencers

OBITUARY

1. Joseph Bruce "Butch" Knight, 62, died Jan. 28 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. He was born in Tupelo Dec. 25, 1949 to Willard Bruce Knight and Lillian Hazel Armstrong Knight Buse. He held degrees from Tupelo High School, Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches all over Mississippi and Alabama during 43 years of ministry, with his last church being Hollandale Church for 14 years. A life celebration service was held Jan. 30 at the Tupelo Chapel of Holland Funeral Directors with Robin Walker and Tim Williams officiating. Burial was in the Bethany Church cemetery in Slate Springs. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Hardin Knight of Tupelo; one son, Anthony Shane Knight (Meredith) of New York, N.Y.; two daughters, Katie Lea Knight Ward (Matt) and Kristie Lynn Knight, both of Pearl; three grandchildren; his mother; sisters Rebecca Ann Knight "Becky" Walker (Larry C.) of Albertville, Ala.; a nephew, aunts, uncles, cousins, and a host of friends and parishioners all over the south. Memorials may be made to the Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060 or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Grace Church, Philadelphia: 30th anniversary, Feb. 12; services, 10:30 a.m. followed by potluck lunch; Kermit Sharp, speaker.
2. Loop Road Church, Richton: Revival, Feb. 1 - Mar. 11; Sundays, 11 a.m.; Mondays - Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 6 p.m.; Youth Night, Hellfighter Night, and fellowship following Sat. services; local pastors, speakers; Jim Futral, Feb. 20; Rory Dill, pastor.

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Record

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Center of My Church

Colossians 1:24-27

By Burn Page

Paul wrote to the Colossian church from a Roman prison, even though he had not founded the church nor ever visited the church, he still had a love for this congregation. He wanted them to be centered in Christ and not in some form of a mystery religion that false teachers were advocating. For a church to be Christ-centered, it means that it will be counter-cultural. That is, when believers stand up for the teachings of Christ they will be knocked down by a culture which opposes Christ.

Unfortunately, the data shows that 75-80% of churches (including Southern Baptist churches) have lost their focus and are plateaued at best ("reached a state of little or no change"), and dying at worst. This lesson can help you evaluate your church's message and ministry and deter-

mine ways you can contribute to keeping Christ at the center of everything it does.

First, what is our message? In regard to Paul's sufferings, Paul was preaching a message of inclusion, that Gentiles were included in the work of God, and for that reason he was suffering (in prison). He suffered because: (1) His message offended many Jews who did not want the blessings of the messianic kingdom to go to the Gentiles, and (2) His message offended Gentiles who saw a threat to their religious practices and economic livelihood (as in the case of Demetrius, the silversmith in Acts 19:23 ff.) There is an ominous parallel between the opposition expressed in these statements and modern congregations who are more focused on maintaining their



Page

kingdom of comfort rather than promoting the kingdom of Christ!

Paul wrote in Col. 1:24, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for His body, that is, the church" (HCSB). What did Paul mean by the phrase "I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions." Interpretations fall into three categories.

(1) Let's be clear what the text does not mean. It does not mean that the atoning work of Christ was insufficient in any way so that believers must suffer to accomplish their own atonement. (2) Melick argued that Paul reflected a Jewish eschatological orientation by using such terms as "mystery" (1:26-27; 2:2), "kingdom" (1:13), and "tribulation" or "affliction" (1:24, NIV). The Jews expected the Messiah's coming to be preceded by a time of tribulation, and the kingdom could be entered only through tribulation (Acts 14:22), which

would give way to the glory that would follow. (3) According to Garland (NIVAC), Paul's thought reflects his sense of unity with Christ. If Christians share in dying and rising with Christ, they also share in his sufferings (Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 1:5-6; 4:10-12; Phil. 1:29; 3:10; see 1 Peter 4:13) and he with theirs. What was lacking was Christ's bodily presence. Paul's physical suffering as a member of Christ's body represents Christ's continuing suffering for the world through his servants.

Second, are we growing spiritually? Paul saw himself as a servant of the church who had been selected by God to complete what was lacking in understanding and fulfilling the Old Testament, namely that the mystery of how God would reconcile the world to himself had been revealed in Christ — the hope of all men. Paul's message was not about a mystery system or set of regulations; the message was and is the person and work of Jesus. To communicate this message Paul's method included "admonishing" (confronting with the intent to change one's

attitude and actions) and "teaching" (the orderly presentation of Christian truth for converts so they may know how to grow). Paul wanted the church to be "encouraged in heart and united in love." Church growth is a group task. The individuals of the church needed each other.

Third, are we walking the walk? Paul was concerned that "having received Christ," the Colossian Christians would "continue to live in him." Having been "rooted" (an agricultural metaphor) and "built up" (an architectural metaphor) in faith, they would be overflowing with thankfulness. Paul employed thankfulness as one of the litmus tests of Christian health. One of the first indicators of departure from God is a lack of thanksgiving. Therefore, make every effort to keep Christ the center of your church. A thankless, loveless church is a church without Christ. In fact, it is not a church at all.

Page is chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College and a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be Honest and Fair

Deuteronomy 16:18-29; 19:14-20; 25:13-16

By Melleen Moore

"Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them — this is the laws and the prophet" (Matthew 7: 12, HCSB). In the words of Jesus, He expresses concern for a right relationship with each other. Moses had shared forty plus years of wilderness experiences with the Children of Israel. They had been taught extensively about worship, sacrifices, and the laws to follow. There were commandments to guide the fellowship with God and each other. Moses was trying to prepare the Children of Israel for a new lifestyle in the promise land. In these last sermons, Moses stressed obedience to God and laid the foundation for a fair and honest government. Each of the tribes would receive an inheritance. Their worship would be different from their new neigh-

bors as would their relationships, because Israel's God was a real living caring God. Therefore, additional leadership would be needed in the form of judges and officials to solve disturbances that arose in the growing government of the nation of Israel.

Expect Justice For All From All

Deuteronomy 16: 18-20

Instructions were given for the selection process — to appoint, as well as the standard of judging — righteous judgment for the judges and officials. Righteous judgment was to be fair and honest without showing partiality, without taking a bribe or twisting words of truth. Showing partiality would be showing favoritism to affect the outcome of the judgment. Bribery allowed money to do the talking so wise decisions



Moore

would be impossible. To twist words of truth allowed for false verdicts to be rendered. The term justice implies a certain standard which was set by God. The judges and officials were to execute a government that upheld God's standard. God's expectation was for Israel's government to be honest and fair to all.

Respect Your Neighbor's Stuff

Deuteronomy 19:14

God possessed the land of Canaan and had promised it to the Children of Israel. Upon taking possession of the land from the Canaanites, each of the tribes would be given a specific inheritance. This inheritance would be divided among the families in the tribes. Boundary markers would be set to identify each inheritance. Often these boundaries were piles of stones or a pillar. To move these boundaries was theft or rebellion against God's desire. Showing respect for possessions of fellow Israelite was righteous in God's sight.

Tell the Whole Truth and Nothing But

Deuteronomy 19:15-20

Moses made it clear that more than one witness was required in bringing charges of an accused individual. The witnesses' testimony must be consistent to establish a fault or wrongdoing. The action of a false witness could be intentionally lying, withholding evidence or made up accusations. This action would be in violation of the ninth commandment which stated "Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor" (Deuteronomy 5:20, HCSB). Whatever the false pretense, it would require the two individuals were to come before God to the priests and judges who were in authority at that time. Thinking in terms of being brought before God should deter any false witness. The officials were held accountable for fair and honest investigations. There were stiff penalties for deceptive testimony. The accuser, if found guilty of false pretense, was to suffer the same punishment as the accused would have. The punishment was to deter against

using the legal system for personal gain or vengeance. It should cause fear in the heart of a would-be accuser which would promote a truthful testimony.

Do Business with Integrity

Deuteronomy 25: 13-16

The Children of Israel were to be fair in business dealings including an honest measure. Much of the business deals of the Israelites would have been bartering so a standard of measure was necessary for fair trading. The scripture gives an example of heavy and light weight or large and small measure depending on whether one was selling or buying. Using "a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure" (Deuteronomy 25: 15 NKJV) would ensure extended days in the land God gave them. Being untruthful in measure was an abomination to God; however, being just was righteous in God's eyes. The Children of Israel were being called to be honest and fair in every area of their lifestyle.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Anabaptists remembered at Southwestern

'Radical Reformers' commended for their strongly held convictions

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca., and author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, says that the 16th-century Anabaptists shaped his Purpose Driven model for the church.

More than 500 students, faculty members, and guests from around the world attended the Anabaptism and Contemporary Baptists conference at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, where Warren joined prominent Anabaptist historian Abraham Friesen as a featured speaker.

Known also as the "Radical Reformers," 16th-century Anabaptists, such as Menno Simons (the namesake of the modern Mennonite church), Pilgram Marpeck, and Balthasar Hubmaier, defended the authority of Scripture, the practice of believer's baptism, and religious liberty.

Modern Baptists hold these convictions in common with the Radical Reformers, who for their beliefs often faced persecution and death at the hands of both Catholics and Protestants alike.

"What was so radical about the Radical Reformers?" asked Warren, a Southwestern graduate, during his presentation. "Today, the word 'radical' means 'extreme, over-the-top, edgy, out-of-bounds, extravagant, and maybe even hip.'"

Warren pointed out the word radical means, "of the root," as portrayed in most areas of life. In botany, for exam-

ple, radical leaves on a tree are closest to the root. In mathematics, radical is the root of the equation. In grammar, radical is the root with all prefixes and suffixes removed, he said.

In most areas of life, Warren said, radical does not mean extreme. "It means 'rooted,' and what we need today are radical reformers who are rooted in Christ, rooted in the Word, rooted in the church and rooted in church history, because what we have today is a generation growing up that is rootless. They are fatherless, and they

are rootless, so they get blown around like tumbleweed."

Like the Radical Reformers of the 16th-century, Warren called Christians to return to the root — the New Testament — and to the apostolic church.

"For 32 years, we've been building Saddleback Church on the lessons I've learned

from the Anabaptists," Warren said.

Anabaptists have impacted him especially with their emphasis upon the Great Commission in Matthew 28, he pointed out. "The Anabaptists didn't just believe in the purpose of the Great Commission," Warren said, but also in "the exact order of the Great Commission."

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